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The Three Shelters

A Commentary on Chapters
112, 113 & 114 of the Qur'aan
[Also Known as the Three Quls]

By

Dr. Abu Ameenah Bilal Philips

Module 7

تفسير سورة الفلق

Tafseer Soorah al-Falaq

Verse 3

﴿وَمِنْ شَرِّ غَاسِقٍ إِذَا وَقَبَ﴾

3. “And from the evil of nightfall.”

The Almighty warns the believers about the night even though the night is among His mighty signs confirming His existence in the minds of those who reflect.

﴿إِنَّ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَآخْتِلَافِ اللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ لَآيَاتٍ لِّأُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ﴾



“Indeed! In the creation of the heavens and the earth, and in the alternation of night and day, there are indeed signs for men of understanding.” (Soorah Aal ‘Imraan, 3: 190)

﴿يُكَوِّرُ اللَّيْلَ عَلَى النَّهَارِ وَيُكَوِّرُ النَّهَارَ عَلَى اللَّيْلِ﴾

“He wraps the night over the day and wraps the day over the night. And He has subjected the sun and the moon.” (Soorah az-Zumar, 39: 5)

Modern scientists looking at the term *kawwara* which means to coil or wrap in a circular fashion point out that this alludes to the circular shape of the earth. Furthermore, astronauts observing the earth from the moon’s orbit indicated that the night seemed to coil around the day and vice versa.

Furthermore, the creation of night is itself a great blessing, about which the Almighty said:

﴿وَمِنْ رَّحْمَتِهِ جَعَلَ لَكُمُ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ لِتَسْكُنُوا فِيهِ وَلِتَبْتَغُوا مِنْ فَضْلِهِ
وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ﴾

“It is out of His Mercy that He made for you night and day to rest, seek His Bounty, and to be grateful.” (Soorah al-Qaṣaṣ, 28: 73)

Without the creation of night, life would be very difficult, as those people who live in the northern regions of the earth testify. Whenever, their season shifts into 24 hours of day for up to six months or vice versa, people living there often go through a series of psychological changes.

However, Allaah instructed that refuge be sought from the nightfall, in spite of it being a blessing in and of itself.

﴿وَمِنْ شَرِّ غَاسِقٍ إِذَا وَقَبَ﴾

“And from the evil of nightfall.” Refuge is sought from nightfall because the night is a time in which the forces of evil become most active. Under the cover of darkness, the evil elements are able to operate most freely. Most crimes are committed during the night and places of corruption like bars, discos, strip-clubs, and so on, do most of their business during the night. The night provides a cover in which the evil forces can operate without being easily identified and avoided.

Consequently, Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) was reported by Jaabir to have said:

((إِذَا كَانَ جُنْحُ اللَّيْلِ أَوْ أَمْسَيْتُمْ فَكُفُّوا صَبْيَانَكُمْ فَإِنَّ الشَّيَاطِينَ تَنْتَشِرُ حِينَئِذٍ فَإِذَا ذَهَبَ سَاعَةٌ مِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَحَلُّوهُمْ فَأَغْلِقُوا الْأَبْوَابَ وَادْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لَا يَفْتَحُ بَابًا مُغْلَقًا))

“When the night falls, keep your children close to you, for the devils fan out at that time. An hour later you can let them free. And close the gates of your house and mention Allaah’s Name on it, for the devils do not open closed doors.”¹

¹ Sahih Al Bukhari, vol. 4, p.321 , no. 500 , Kitaab: Ashribah; Baab: Taghtiyah al Inaa,

Based on this, Ibn al-Qayyim pointed out that the secret behind seeking refuge with the Lord of the Dawn becomes clear; for the dawn represents the beginning of the day and the appearance of light which repels the armies of darkness and the evil elements of the night. The filthy and corrupt people, thieves and highway robbers return to their hideouts and caves, and the night creatures return to their lairs. Thus, the Almighty mentions in His Book:

﴿اللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا يُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ ۚ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَوْلِيَآؤُهُمُ الطَّاغُوتُ يُخْرِجُونَهُم مِّنَ النُّورِ إِلَى الظُّلُمَاتِ ۗ﴾

“Allâh is the Guardian of those who believe. He brings them out from darkness into light. While, the guardians of those who disbelieve, are false deities and false leaders who bring them out from light into darkness.”
(Soorah al-Baqarah, 2: 257)

Faith is light and it leads to light. It settles in the illuminated heart connected to other illuminated and bright hearts. On the other hand, disbelief and idolatry is darkness and it leads to darkness. It settles in darkened hearts connected to other dark hearts.²

² Badaa 'i' at-Ta'fseer, vol. 5. pp. 401-2.